

CLAIMS

1. In a computer operating environment comprising a software
program and a software resource, an apparatus for limiting use of said software
5 resource comprising:
an access authorization indicator associated with said software program;
means in said software resource for reading said access authorization
indicator;
means in said software resource for determining whether said access
10 authorization indicator is valid;
means for allowing access by said software program to said software
resource only if said access authorization indicator is determined to be valid.
2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said access authorization
15 indicator comprises terms of a license for use of said software resource.
3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said access authorization
indicator comprises terms of a site license.
- 20 4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said access authorization
indicator is embedded in said software program.
5. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said software resource comprises
an API.
- 25 6. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said software resource comprises
a runtime library.

7. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said software resource comprises a dynamic link library.

8. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said software resource comprises an applet.

9. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said software resource comprises a bytecode package.

10. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said software resource comprises an OLE enabled application program.

11. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said access authorization indicator is specified in a constant declaration area of said software program.

12. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said access authorization indicator comprises a property of a property list of said software program.

13. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising an identifier associated with said access authorization indicator and wherein said means for determining the validity of said access authorization indicator comprises means for determining whether said access authorization indicator is valid based on said identifier.

14. The apparatus of claim 13 further comprising means for receiving said identifier from an end user.

15. The apparatus of claim 14 further comprising means for storing said identifier in said software resource.

5 16. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said identifier is embedded in said software program.

17. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said identifier comprises a digital signature of said access authorization indicator.

10 18. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein said identifier is specified in a constant declaration area of said software program.

15 19. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein said identifier comprises a property of a property list of said software program.

20 20. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein said means for determining whether said access authorization indicator is valid based upon said identifier comprises a means for digital signature authentication.

21. The apparatus of claim 2 further comprising means for determining whether said terms of said license are met.

22. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein:
said software program comprises said access authorization indicator and
said identifier;
said access authorization indicator comprises terms of a license for use of
5 said software resource;
said identifier comprises a digital signature of said access authorization
indicator.

23. In a computer operating environment, a method for limiting use of
10 a software resource comprising:
receiving a request from a software program to use said resource;
obtaining an access authorization indicator associated with said software
program;
determining whether said access authorization indicator is valid;
15 allowing said software program to use said software resource only if said
access authorization indicator is determined to be valid.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein said access authorization indicator
comprises terms of a license for use of said software resource.

25. The method of claim 24 wherein said license comprises a site
license.

26. The method of claim 23 wherein said access authorization indicator
25 is embedded in said software program.

27. The method of claim 23 wherein said software resource comprises an API.

28. The method of claim 23 wherein said software resource comprises a runtime library.

29. The method of claim 23 wherein said software resource comprises a dynamic link library.

30. The method of claim 23 wherein said software resource comprises an applet.

31. The method of claim 23 wherein said software resource comprises a bytecode package.

32. The method of claim 23 wherein said software resource comprises an OLE enabled application program.

33. The method of claim 26 wherein said access authorization indicator is specified in a constant declaration area of said software program.

34. The method of claim 26 wherein said access authorization indicator comprises a property of a property list area of said software program.

35. The method of claim 23 wherein said determining the validity of said access authorization indicator comprises determining whether said access

authorization indicator is valid based on an identifier associated with said access authorization indicator.

5 36. The method of claim 35 further comprising accepting said identifier from a user.

37. The method of claim 36 further comprising storing said identifier in said software resource.

10 38. The method of claim 35 wherein said identifier is embedded in said software program.

15 39. The method of claim 35 wherein said identifier comprises a digital signature of said access authorization indicator.

40. The method of claim 38 wherein said identifier is specified in a constant declaration area of said software program.

20 41. The method of claim 38 wherein said identifier comprises a property of a property list area of said software program.

25 42. The method of claim 35 wherein a digital signature authentication means is used in determining whether said access authorization indicator is valid based upon said identifier.

43. The method of claim 24 further comprising determining whether said terms of said license are met.

44. The method of claim 35 wherein:
said software program comprises said access authorization indicator and
said identifier;
said access authorization indicator comprises terms of a license for use of
5 said software resource;
said identifier comprises a digital signature of said access authorization
indicator.

45. A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly
10 embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a
method for limiting use of a software resource, said method comprising:
receiving a request from a software program to use said resource;
obtaining an access authorization indicator associated with said software
program;
15 determining whether said access authorization indicator is valid;
allowing said software program to use said software resource only if said
access authorization indicator is determined to be valid.

46. The program storage device of claim 45 wherein said access
20 authorization indicator comprises terms of a license for use of said software
resource.

47. The program storage device of claim 46 wherein said license
comprises a site license.
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48. The program storage device of claim 45 wherein said access
authorization indicator is embedded in said software program.

49. The program storage device of claim 45 wherein said software resource comprises an API.

5 50. The program storage device of claim 45 wherein said software resource comprises a runtime library.

51. The program storage device of claim 45 wherein said software resource comprises a dynamic link library.

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52. The program storage device of claim 45 wherein said software resource comprises an applet.

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53. The program storage device of claim 45 wherein said software resource comprises a bytecode package.

54. The program storage device of claim 45 wherein said software resource comprises an OLE enabled application program.

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55. The method of claim 48 wherein said access authorization indicator is specified in a constant declaration area of said software program.

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56. The program storage device of claim 48 wherein said access authorization indicator comprises a property of a property list area of said software program.

57. The program storage device of claim 45 wherein said determining the validity of said access authorization indicator comprises determining whether said access authorization indicator is valid based on an identifier associated with said access authorization indicator.

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58. The program storage device of claim 57 wherein said method further comprises accepting said identifier from a user.

59. The program storage device of claim 58 wherein said method further comprises storing said identifier in said software resource.

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60. The program storage device of claim 57 wherein said identifier is embedded in said software program.

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61. The program storage device of claim 57 wherein said identifier comprises a digital signature of said access authorization indicator.

62. The program storage device of claim 60 wherein said identifier is specified in a constant declaration area of said software program.

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63. The program storage device of claim 60 wherein said identifier comprises a property of a property list area of said software program.

64. The program storage device of claim 57 wherein a digital signature authentication means is used in determining whether said access authorization indicator is valid based upon said identifier.

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65. The program storage device of claim 46 in which said method further comprises determining whether said terms of said license are met.

5 66. The program storage device of claim 57 wherein:
said software program comprises said access authorization indicator and said identifier;
said access authorization indicator comprises terms of a license for use of said software resource;
said identifier comprises a digital signature of said access authorization
10 indicator.

67. An article of manufacture comprising:
a computer readable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein for accessing a resource library, said computer readable
15 program code in said article of manufacture comprising:
computer readable program code embodying an access authorization indicator for accessing said resource library.

20 68. The article of manufacture of claim 67 wherein said access authorization indicator comprises terms of a license for use of said software resource.

25 69. The article of manufacture of claim 67 wherein said computer readable program code comprises a software program and wherein said access authorization indicator is embedded in said software program.

70. The article of manufacture of claim 67 wherein said software resource comprises an API.

71. The article of manufacture of claim 67 wherein said software resource comprises a runtime library.

72. The article of manufacture of claim 67 wherein said software resource comprises a dynamic link library.

73. The article of manufacture of claim 67 wherein said software resource comprises an applet.

74. The article of manufacture of claim 67 wherein said software resource comprises a bytecode package.

75. The article of manufacture of claim 67 wherein said software resource comprises an OLE enabled application program.

76. The article of manufacture of claim 69 wherein said access authorization indicator is specified in a constant declaration area of said software program.

77. The article of manufacture of claim 69 wherein said access authorization indicator comprises a property of a property list of said software program.

78. The article of manufacture of claim 67 further comprising computer readable program code embodying an identifier associated with said access authorization indicator.

5 79. The article of manufacture of claim 78 wherein said identifier is embedded in said software program.

80. The article of manufacture of claim 78 wherein said identifier comprises a digital signature of said access authorization indicator.

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81. The article of manufacture of claim 78 wherein said identifier is specified in a constant declaration area of said software program.

82. The article of manufacture of claim 78 wherein said identifier
15 comprises a property of a property list of said software program.

83. The article of manufacture of claim 78 wherein:
said software program comprises said access authorization indicator and
said identifier;

20 said access authorization indicator comprises terms of a license for use of
said software resource;

said identifier comprises a digital signature of said access authorization
indicator.

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